

start an adult conversation about the real structural issues that plague our Nation's fiscal health.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SELMON WILLARD "JIM" WELLS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of America's great military heroes, Lieutenant General Selmon Willard Wells, or Jim as he was known to his family.

General Wells passed away in December at the age of 94 after a lifetime of distinguished service to his country. Today, his friends, family, and loved ones will gather to celebrate his amazing life in a special service near his home in California. Among those will be his children, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, there's no way I could do justice to all the achievements of this amazing man in the time I have here.

Jim first earned his wings in 1941 and went on to log over 12,000 hours of flying time as a command pilot, with over 700 hours of combat time. He flew hundreds of missions during three wars—World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—and has been honored with almost every medal imaginable.

After commanding forces all over the world, he culminated his military career as an inspector general of the Air Force here in Washington.

Today, I would like to join with my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to express to Jim's family and loved ones our heartfelt sympathy on his loss and our sincere gratitude for his service to the Nation he loved.

Mr. Speaker, during his service today, it was the hope of many that General Wells would be honored by a military flyover. I am disappointed to say that the Air Force was unable to accommodate this wish, but I know there's no military airman in America who does not join us in honoring the memory of this hero. And if anyone would understand the logistical challenges of command, it would be Jim.

A PENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. We're 1 week away from a government shutdown. I, for one, wish we could focus on creating jobs and growing the economy. But, instead, the majority can't even agree on how to keep the doors open.

In fact, unwilling to compromise and unable to break free of the clutches of the tea party, they have tried a stunt

that is beyond belief. It's altogether fitting that we are debating this absurd measure today on April Fool's Day. Why? Because after reading the Constitution on the floor of this body just weeks ago, they are ignoring our founding document, mocking its principles, and attempting to circumvent 222 years of history.

What do they want to do? Say that any bill, any bill that passes this House is good enough. No need for the Senate or President. It should just become law, like magic.

This country was founded on checks and balances and limited government. Instead of desperate attempts to ram through job-destroying legislation to appease the extreme wing of their party, perhaps the majority in this House could try negotiating in good faith with the Senate and our President to keep the lights on. After all, that's the least the American public expects of their elected officials.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1255, GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 194 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 194

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1255) to prevent a shutdown of the government of the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and Minority Leader or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I raise a point of order against H. Res. 194 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The resolution contains a waiver of all points of order against consideration of the bill, which includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, which causes a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman from Minnesota makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden and the gentleman from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I raise this point of order, not necessarily out of concern for unmet, unfunded mandates, although there are likely many in this bill; I raise the point of order because it's the only vehicle we've got to actually talk about this rule and this bill and how we're being denied the ability to actually offer the amendments that we would like to to illuminate what's actually in this bill.

Republicans are playing partisan political games with America's future, America's seniors, and Americans veterans with the following: with America's government.

Since taking control of Congress over 13 weeks ago, Republicans have failed to introduce a single bill, not one single bill to create one single job. Instead, the Republican majority has hatched an unconstitutional scheme to fire nearly 1 million Americans and foreclose on the middle class.

Madam Speaker, I think it's ironic that today is April Fool's Day, because the Republican majority is playing an April Fool's joke on the American people. This unconstitutional Washington "tricknology" and "trickeration" reflected in the underlying bill would destroy at least 700,000 jobs according to the Economic Policy Institute, Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economics, and even Goldman Sachs.

Let's be clear. The underlying bill of which Mr. WOODALL is a cosponsor implies that the Senate has passed a bill which has already failed there. It assumes or deems that the President has signed a bill which he threatened to veto.

□ 0920

April Fool's, America. There is no Senate or Office of the Presidency today under the Republican majority bill. The Republican spending bill badly damages our fragile economic recovery, according to 300 economists of all political stripes, and threatens to send us spiraling into another Republican recession. And as we have heard earlier this week, the Republican answer to 14 million Americans who lost their jobs and can't find new ones is: Stop talking about jobs.

At this time, I would like to ask the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) a simple question: How many jobs does this bill create?

Mr. WOODALL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would be happy to answer that question.

By eliminating the crushing Federal deficit that we have today? By taking the first steps we have seen in a generation to take the government out of the capital market and put the private sector back in?

Mr. ELLISON. Reclaiming my time, I do appreciate the gentleman's decision not to answer my question.